

Councillor D Rodwell, Chair of Cabinet
Councillor G Paddle, Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Fiona Taylor
Acting Chief Executive
Town Hall
Barking
Essex
IG11 7LU

Phone: 020 8227 2981
Email: fiona.taylor@lbbd.gov.uk

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Dear Councillors

Urgent Action under Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Constitution – Studio 3 Arts Loan and Grant

I am writing to you in your respective capacities to advise that I have taken urgent action under the provisions of Part 2, Chapter 16, paragraph 4 of the Constitution in order to approve the allocation of loan and grant funding to Studio 3 Arts towards the redevelopment of the former Galleon Community Centre, Boundary Road, Barking, into a world class arts centre.

As the attached report explains, Studio 3 has already secured £1.63m funding towards the redevelopment project. However, the rising cost of building projects and other factors have left a shortfall in funding in the sum of £356,000 and Studio 3 approached the Council for support. Following detailed discussions with Council representatives and appropriate due diligence by officers, it is proposed that a loan of £200,000, at a fixed interest rate of 3% repayable over 24 years (the remaining length of Studio 3's lease from the Council) and a grant of £156,000 via the Strategic Community Infrastructure Fund levy be approved.

As the project is already in progress and as the Cabinet is not meeting during August, I have agreed that it is in the Council's best interests to deal with the matter under the Urgent Action provisions.

This letter also acknowledges your agreement to the implementation of the Special Urgency provisions under Part 2, Chapter 17, paragraph 15 of the Constitution as the matter, which qualifies as a 'key decision', had not been publicised in advance on the Council's Forward Plan in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

In line with procedures, details of this urgent action will be reported to the next meeting of the Cabinet on 20 September.

Yours sincerely,



Fiona Taylor
Acting Chief Executive

cc: Abi Gbago, Ann Marie Pena, Alison Stuart